

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6129

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0820

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ASEC, UR

SUBJ: SOVIET PROTESTS ON RECENT INCIDENTS

REF: MOSCOW 3289

1. WE SHARE EMBASSY MOSCOW'S VIEW THAT SOVIETS ARE TAKING TOUGHENING STAND WITH RESPECT TO RECURRING ACTIONS OF HARASSMENT DIRECTED AGAINST THEIR PERSONNEL IN NEW YORK. BOTH DURING VISIT TO MISSION BY KHARLAMOV AND OVINNIKOV IN CONNECTION WITH LAST WEEK'S SHOOTING INCIDENT AT SOVIET HOUSING COMPLEX AND IN THIS MORNING'S (MARCH 3) TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH MAKEYEV WHEN HE PROTESTED MARCH 2 TELEVISION PROGRAM, THERE WERE THINLY VEILED THREATS OF POSSIBLE PUBLIC REACTION IN MOSCOW WHICH COULD AFFECT OUR PERSONNEL. THERE WAS CLEAR IMPLICATION IN MAKEYEV'S TONE THIS MORNING THAT IF U.S. GOVERNMENT DID NOT TAKE MEASURES TO PREVENT THESE ACTS OF HARASSMENT, OUR OWN PEOPLE MIGHT BE SUFFERING BEFORE LONG.

2. COUNTING DEMONSTRATION OUTSIDE SOVIET MISSION AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 29, THERE HAVE NOW BEEN FOUR ACTIONS
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DURING PAST WEEK WHICH SOVIETS HAVE PROTESTED OFFICIALLY

TO US. THEY CITED SIX RECENT INCIDENTS AT HOST COUNTRY COMMITTEE MARCH 2. AS USUAL, WITH OUR PROCEDURES, INVESTIGATIONS ARE SLOW AND PAINSTAKING; NOTHING HAS BEEN TURNED UP YET ON SHOOTING INCIDENT, WHICH IS OBVIOUSLY VERY SERIOUS BUSINESS. GIVEN NATURE SOVIET SUSPICIONS AND THEIR GENERAL MENTAL FRAMEWORK, IT IS PERHAPS NOT SURPRISING THAT THEY GIVE IMPRESSION HERE OF BEING INCREASINGLY AGITATED AND GENERALLY FEARFUL OF HARM TO THEIR PERSONNEL. I TALKED WITH HEAD OF NEW YORK FBI OFFICE THIS AFTERNOON (MARCH 3) TO URGE ADDITIONAL EFFORTS TO GET TO BOTTOM OF SHOTTING INCIDENT AND FIND THE PERPETRATOR. THERE ARE TIMES WHEN ONE MAY BE LED TO BELIEVE THAT LOCAL PRESSURES MAY INHIBIT ENTHUSIASM OF NEW YORK POLICE, BUT THIS SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE THE CASE WITH THE FBI. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO STRESS SERIOUSNESS OF SITUATION TO FBI HEADQUARTERS AND MAKE THEM AWARE THAT IT IS OUR OWN PEOPLE IN MOSCOW WHO MAY PAY PRICE FOR LACK OF RESULTS IN FINDING AND TAKING ACTION AGAINST THOSE WHO PERPETRATE DISGRACEFUL AND UNACCEPTABLE EPISODES HERE.

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